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Saturday, February 1, 1969
Barn
Lunch
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Saturday Lunch

Mr. Nyland: Sometimes I think I'm a damned nuisance to talk when really it isn't necessary at all when you come here to Work. And the sole reason for mentioning a few things is simply that during a week they accumulate and I think that, profiting by the last weekend there are certain things we could then remember whenever we continue with working with physical work and with coming here regularly. Because we're going into the Spring, believe it or not, and we will have to outline certain work so that we do it sufficient for the time ... or before the time that some of us might go on a trip to the West Coast. And I would like to make sure that we plan correctly so that even when we are, a part of us, on the West Coast, that activities here can continue and that in the time that we are not here—that is, mostly the month of April, the beginning of May—that then we have made preliminaries for things like the garden or the preparation of certain roads when the mud finally disappears, and that we don't lose too much time simply because we don't happen to be here without too many leaders. So I think you ought to consider ... and we will have to consider it—all of us—how to arrange the work *now* so that we do not make too much of a gap between the time some of us leave and come back again.

About the trip itself, I would like to write up quite clearly what I think is the aim, and also to put up certain restrictions which I think are quite necessary to understand. Because we've had now a little bit of experience with going on a trip and there are certain things that were partly outstanding and partly were also deteriorating and not quite right, and I will try to put them in such words so that everyone can understand them.

The trip is open for those who can come and afford it, and can afford both time and money and energy and for whom it could have a meaning. I do not want to exclude any so-called ‘newer’ members because it may be very useful for them, but at the same time there has to be enough of a sprinkling of those who do know and who will not forget the reason for making a trip of this kind. I also want to put restrictions on people as far as their attire is concerned, and their appearance. I will say it in very blunt words: I do not want to look as if I am in charge of a bunch of hippies. You must understand that. Because I don’t want to have that connected with me, and I certainly don’t want to have it connected with Work.

Now, to what extent that will go and where is, you might say one going over into the other, it will be a very difficult thing to decide. But I say it in connection with appearances here at the Barn also, and it is that kind of thing I’ve warned for about nine months ago when we ran into a little difficulty—or when it looked as if we might—and I warned then against exactly the things that have happened during the summer. I don’t want a repetition of that anymore. We are not that kind of people. We are Working and we are serious and that has to appear every once in a while in the way we are, the way we behave; taking ourselves out of the ordinary life where we happen to live sometimes and where you are perfectly entitled to live any way you like, but when it comes to be here ... and to being here at the Barn in the presence of other people and then the emphasis is on Work on yourself—which has to do with a possibility of a development of your own life as it is in *ordinary* life to see if, during the time that you are here you are reminded a little bit more concentratedly of your responsibilities you have for your own evolution and your own understanding—that then there is a certain level which is required to be maintained by all of us.

And it is not necessarily that one connects it with the impression we create in Warwick because that, I think, we are past—and I think we are past in the right way that we do not ... and I’m not particularly afraid of that anymore—but I am talking now about the level of people who are interested in Work and seriously, and who really consider the possibility of getting together here physically working; not as a picnic and not as a nice little day in the country, but more and more with the realization that they come here in order to get some kind of food for themselves of a spiritual kind, or in any event of something that creates conditions for them in which there is a possibility for further growth. And when we say that the growth is in the direction of the building of something else which does not exist on Earth—not easily—and when it wants to

exist, that one has to do and make special efforts for that purpose.

When I say it in a few words that the question of Work is really to build a Soul, then perhaps you understand what I mean; that the question then is an emphasis on that what as have not at the present time, and that we wish to Work for that purpose seriously and honestly. And that that should be constantly that kind of an aim that should be in your mind and in your heart when you are here particularly; and, of course, that then if it is and it can to some extent crystallize in you, that then it would be helpful in your ordinary life as you have to deal with life as it is presented to you in your profession or in your personal relationships.

So, for that reason I link up the appearance of one. And again I say, as I've said so many times, it is *not* because I wish you to walk around with a serious, hypocritical face. We are human beings and we are on Earth and we probably remain for a little while here, and during that period you have to understand what it is to try to create a Soul under the conditions in which we happen to live now; and it is that kind of seriousness which is turned inward and which you then, realizing what is needed for you, your attitude and your postures and every form of manifestation must to a certain extent reflect that kind of a wish.

You must know that for that reason when I myself wish to associate with you, you have to have a wish to associate with me; and that when I say certain things for the purpose of the general good of the community that it applies of course to me, but it also applies to you. And I expect you to understand that. Because if you don't understand it, sooner or later I will have to tell you. This is going to be—and it will have to continue to be—on a certain level exceptional even for Warwick, a level exceptional even for certain communities that as do know about, and exceptional even in the sense of a religious community or a congregation where the emphasis for us is on actually putting to practice that what we understand of Work. And, not a question of just sitting and listening either to a little music or some kind of a tape. It is your Work that is at stake, I've said it so often, and it is your Work that really counts. It is your desire and your Conscience and your Consciousness that will help you, and for that *all* of your personality has to conform—within certain limits, of course, and dependent entirely on your own idiosyncrasies—but there is something that has to drop: When you think that you are alone in this Group. You are in a Group and the Group as a whole has a responsibility, and each person as a member of such a Group has a responsibility to the Group and to the different people in the Group.

We will talk more about that because it's not necessary now to go into any kind of a detail,

but I want to say it in connection with any kind of a plans for the trip and that this year will have to establish us as a group in Warwick of a serious kind; a community where people come for the sake of wanting to Work, and that that emphasis more and more should become known as far as Warwick and the people here are concerned ... but that it has to be a living matter among us; so that those who do come from the outside sometimes as guests and sometimes as new people, will start to experience a certain atmosphere why are they doing what they are doing, and what is there in them as a Group that is desirable.

If there is a group of semi-Conscious or Conscious ... or a little bit Conscious people in the midst of a world of unconsciousness, there has to be a distinction in one's behavior. If there are persons who wish to develop an 'I' and want to do that by means of a development and an understanding of Consciousness and Conscience, they will have to show a Will and not just a wishy-washy wish; something that belongs to them as their Individuality, and it is not that what is simply an ... a result of whatever they happen to be as a personality; and we have to make that kind of a distinction gradually because, as yet it is not sufficiently understood.

I also know that in many things of this kind, one has to keep on repeating and repeating. Because it is so difficult sometimes to understand what is meant, and much of the time when I speak I know that a great deal goes past you; partly because you are not capable as yet to understand certain things, but partly because you haven't learned to be attentive, and that many times your ordinary unconscious states go over into a border ... or a little bit of a sleep. And sometimes it is just too bad that it happens, but it requires on my part much more patience than really should be necessary. Sometimes I accuse you of that. Because I have said so many things so often and it becomes so monotonous when I have to keep on repeating, but I will continue to repeat it for your sake. Because unless you can understand that and make it part of your life, you will never really realize what is involves in Work, and to what extent you have to respect those conditions which provide for you the possibility of that kind of growth.

So now coming down to Earth right here and this afternoon and your Work, after lunch I wish you would sit for fifteen minutes without doing anything whatsoever; not attending to dishes, not attending to anything that you would become engaged in; that I wished that you would go off in some kind of a quiet place or sit as if you were preparing for meditating. But, you're not preparing for that. You're preparing for an afternoon of Work. You're preparing to see yourself. You're preparing for the possibility of trying to understand what is there as you sit

quietly and as you consider “Here I am” with all the abilities that are available to you, with all the states of health in which you at the present time you might say have an ‘experience,’ or which you, perhaps, even partly enjoy. That you try to make up your mind “How will I try to be this afternoon, what will I try to extract, what will I try, honestly try to do for the building.” I call it ‘Soul’ for lack of a better word. You can say for meeting ‘God’ if you like, for meeting your death, for really becoming a Man, for really growing up in the real sense of the word and to become free from the bondage of Earth.

And whatever terminology we have used so many, many times in different ways and whatever appeals to you—that is, whatever intellectually is clear, whatever intuitively is felt—it doesn’t matter very much; because it is the totality of yourself that you have to consider as you are and as you walk ... and as you work and as you think and as you feel. And I would like you, if you possibly can do that for yourself, really to come to yourself and to sit quietly and relax and try to remember “Here I am,” and I must know the purpose why I do this. And when I know it, then after fifteen minutes then go very simply into that kind of work which I hope then, of course, will help you and will have more meaning for you, because *you* will be prepared and *you* could be in a different state.

So, have a good afternoon. And we can drink to that; because if you wish to drink then you join; if you don’t want it don’t drink, but when you do drink you have the responsibility of being a member of the Group and then you understand what I mean.

Sunday Lunch

Mr. Nyland: As soon as I see cigarettes that indicates that people are through with their dinner, so then it’s a sign for me that I can say something. It would be helpful for those who are responsible to let us know at the house when you actually start with the lunch itself. Not that you say that there will be lunch at twelve-thirty. There always can be delays, but that is the reason that we were a little late ... and we had to phone up and make sure that you were already started, so whoever takes the responsibility for that please let us know, just phone up.

I would like to say a few things about the attitude that one should have towards the different Activities that we are attempting. That is, it is not just this physical work. You know, we have been doing a great deal in trying to get the Hotel in shape. As you know, we started with the Sound Workshop and the Railroad Store, and everybody knows about that. What

perhaps is not so well-known is that there are two different Activities that we are interested in now, besides another one which is on its way but not sufficiently in operation. One is the Bakery, and the other is the attempt to make a Bookstore in Warwick. Now, the reason I mention these things is that I feel it becomes a Group matter and that I've said it before: That whenever someone is interested in certain things that have a relation to Work, that you then also become interested to the extent that you are able; although it may be the responsibility for the person who wants to undertake it primarily, that he feels, or she would feel that they have support from you.

You remember when I ... we talked about how to listen to questions in a meeting. Whenever a question is asked by anyone of the Group, all the different people should really be attentive and should try to formulate in their own mind what kind of an answer they would give. I do not know if you realize what is meant by that kind of a statement. What is needed for us as a whole and as a Group, and I emphasize it so many times, is that there is a coherence, something that you can call 'solidarity' among us actuated by the aim that we all have. But the reason why we are constantly trying to get together, to be able to work out certain things together: That then you feel that you are part of a total entity; and that that entity should remain alive and is kept alive by the different attempts which each person makes for himself really to Wake Up, and that the Group as a whole could be Awake. And that means that you have to get out of your shell every once in a while and that you have to allow that what takes place around you also to affect you, and that you could become much more part; instead of being a so-called individual that really you join, to the extent that it is possible for you, with other people.

I know it depends on a type and some people want to stay much more within themselves and are not as outgoing as others; but at the same time, when you know how much you can be dependent on the work of someone else and that perhaps the other person is dependent on your work, that you add to yourself and your life a certain responsibility by simply being here and to try to work together.

So when I mention these Activities like the Bakery, which has been in existence for a little while but now we get to a point where it can be opened on Wednesday—and it will, I hope, stay open for a long time—that it needs support. It needs all of our good wishes. It is something that of course is useful to us, but it is also something that can be in Amity, and I hope in ... without being too idealistic about it, in the surrounding country could become a central point for different

people to be in contact with that what we are doing. Very much the same as the stores in Warwick have that kind of a function, this store, I think can function very well, and it should gradually become a central point where people could get certain things; food of a certain kind and perhaps a little bit different kind of food than you buy in a grocery store, but at least that there is an attempt here to build something from the ground up. To what extent you can help in that, I do not really know. It depends on yourself and how much you feel for an endeavor; what is it in you that could make room for the desires of someone else, and when a person really wishes to become useful for others he has to enter into the life of someone else and their ambitions and perhaps aspirations so that they, again in turn feeling this from you, would have inspiration to wish to continue.

And that is really the big point: That what could produce in you much more a feeling for each other. Because someday you will also have to face a similar situation for yourself when you become dependent on other people. You will become dependent in ordinary life, of course, on other people, and there we call it that you have to ‘sell yourself’ to someone you are going to work for. But the question when it is a Group: When it is something that has to be maintained, something that has to be kept alive, you will be faced, every once in a while in your own attempts to Work, with the difficulties of losing interest, or perhaps not understanding certain things correctly; or for some reason or other being *über donnert* [thundered over] by that what might happen to you in ordinary life, and that at such a time you become dependent on other people who perhaps at that moment are a little bit more Awake than you are.

Look at this even, if you wish, selfishly, of something that you want to bring to someone else in order to get a gain from it afterwards for yourself. The Bookstore I think will be in Warwick, and it might be very nice for all of us to think a little bit about it—what could you imagine a bookstore to be, and to what extent can it be of value to us, and what could be the result on the little community in Warwick—and would it be a possible means of establishing a level perhaps, then, of a certain amount of knowledge of a certain kind. The character of such a Bookstore, the character of a place where people could go and browse around and find something and which would mean, of course, that they would be able to obtain books which have a relation to esoteric knowledge for one thing. For another, a question of children’s books: What is it that you would like to see as actually being there. What do you consider as a necessity for the education of the young. To what extent, and not even being parents, are you interested in

these kind of questions of how the world affects young people at the present, and what can you do and help to counteract such influences.

A Bookstore is a means. It is something that can have your support, and that when you feel ... and not only that when you want to go and get a book that perhaps you can buy All and Everything there, that you look at it as a real wish to create something worthwhile in the midst of a little conservative town like Warwick where, of course, there are many prejudices to overcome, and where it is not going to be so difficult to make a go of even the Bookstore.

You know that Neal is interested in that, and I think it ought to be encouraged. And again, whatever you happen to think about and what you know could be helpful, try to think, try to think a little bit more about other people. Try to include in your world the attempts other people make. Try to see what you can actually feel for someone. Try to see to what extent you really can care. And don't wait 'til the person dies before you tell him that you care for him. The time is *now* to tell. The time is *now* to work together. The time is *now* to develop that feeling in you, that you wish for someone else conditions in which that person can grow like you would wish it for yourself. It is time. It is high time to start loving each other in the right way. That is the emotional basis on which one actually wishes to do for someone that what you would have liked to have done to yourself.

I only mention these two little things, because they belong to a totality of Activities. I hope that gradually we will be able to produce ... or rather, to manufacture or maybe even to create ... I've said it before: That I would like to see this little community have a certain standing in the rest of whatever the surrounding country may be, and I have emphasized a few times the necessity of being, let's call it 'true' representatives of Work. Because if that basis isn't there, if there is no realization of why we do this, if there is no sharp distinction in your own life about that what is ordinary life on Earth and that what evolutionarily could become a living place for yourself and the creation of your Soul, ultimately if there is no sharp distinction in that what you wish to do—to stay on Earth and have a good time, or to build for something that perhaps would be much more useful for the continuation of your life—if that is not sharply defined in you, you will have a terrible trouble to meet conditions on Earth. The only way you can solve them is to build something from where you can look at your life as a whole on Earth, Objectively. When that is there within you, many things will fall in place. Also from that standpoint you will understand the Activities as contacts with ordinary life; for us if this could become a nucleus,

that then there is something in you, you might say that belongs, and that it goes out towards the outside world from a standpoint of solidity in yourself and solidarity among us.

In that, really, is contained the idea of Work—the thoughtfulness, the real feeling, the honesty, the attempt, the seriousness on your part. Don't take things too lightly and don't take them either too seriously, but remain within the bounds of where you know is the middle road, taking from one side and taking from the other but having a definite direction. To say it philosophically ... which of course has no meaning whatsoever when I say towards 'Infinity,' but maybe even if you don't understand it, you can feel it.

Have a good afternoon.

End of tape